

# **ABSTRACT**

The present invention provides an improved interferometer design. Embodiments of the present invention provide a beam splitter, mounted with first and second reflective elements. An OPD element mounts relative to the other elements such that an optical path in the interferometer passes through the OPD element. The OPD element can be, for example, a plate comprising a refractive material mounted such that the thickness of the refractive material encountered by the optical path through the OPD element is variable. Various arrangements of components are described, and methods of constructing and methods of aligning such interferometers are also described.